

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 21416 260753Z

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 266
THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 21416

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 2. AND 3.)

E.O. 116552: GDS
TAGS: EAID, VS
SUBJECT: FY 1974 AID LEVELS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

REFS: A) STATE 249438; B) SAIGON 20907; C) SAIGON 206124

1. REF A REPORTS A HIGH LEVEL INTER-AGENCY MEETING TO TAKE PLACE SHORTLY AFTER CHRISTMAS TO REVIEW OVERALL FUNDING LEVELS FOR INDO-CHINA. REF B REITERATES OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR PROMPT ACTION ON A FY 74 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION AND SUGGESTS THAT IF ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA IS JUDGED VALID BY WASHINGTON SUCH NEEDS ALSO BE INCLUDED IN A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION. REF B FURTHER STATES THAT A REDUCTION IN ASSISTANCE TO VIET-NAM CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

2. WE VERY MUCH WELCOME THIS OVERALL REVIEW AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WHICH HAS BEEN NEEDED TO CLARIFY AND REAFFIRM THE PRIORITIES TO BE OBSERVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE IN THE STONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE NECESSITY TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF PROCEEDING IMMEDIATELY WITH THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF 150 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FY 1974 AID TO VIET-NAM. I WISH TO FURTHER RECORD MY CONVICTION THAT IF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE NEEDED FOR EITHER CAMBODIA OR LAOS THAT THE SUPPLEMENTAL MUST BE INCREASED BY
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WHATEVER AMOUNT IS DETERMINED NECESSARY FOR THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

IT IS JUST NOT POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER DIVERSION OF ANY SUMS FROM
EITHER THE CURRENT APPROPRIATEION OR FROM THE REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTAL

.

TO DO SO WOULD BE A TRULY MONUMENTAL DISTORTION OF THE PROPER
PRIORITIES WHICH, IF OUR OVERALL U.S. OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA
ARE TO BE ACHIEVED, MUST REPEAT MUST CONTINUE TO ACCORD THE
HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRIORITY TO VIET-NAM.

3. TO PUT IT EVEN MORE CLEARLY, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT
WHATEVER THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR LAOS AND CAMBODIA IS ONLY OF
PERIPHERAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN VIET-NAM. BUT IF WE
FAIL IN OUR OBJECTIVES IN VIET-NAM WHAT THEN HAPPENS IN CAMBODIA
AND LAOS BECOMES WHOLLY IRRELEVANT. THIS CENTRAL FACT MUST BE
BORNE IN MIND BOTH IN CLACULATING AMOUNT OF OVERALL RESOURCES
NECESSARY AND IN THE ALLOCATIONOF OVERALL RESOURCES THAT BE-
COME AVAILABLE.

MARTIN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MISS ELTZ.

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